

DEC 8 1948

NOTES ON SOME UNDEVELOPED DEPOSITS OF STRATEGIC MINERALS AND METALS

Certain areas throughout the world have potential possibilities for the development of one or more critical and strategic minerals or metals, which are not now being developed because of insufficient data regarding the quality and total ore reserve; that is to say, where private capital, because of an unfavorable political climate, exchange regulations, obstructing spirit of nationalism or for other good reasons, has not been warranted in making thorough investigations of the production possibilities.

Following are selected instances, where it is considered that the extent and grade of deposits are not fully known, where present conditions are such that an adequate exploration program is not now under way or being considered, and where under favorable local circumstances, a program of exploration by American governmental interests might seem feasible, and might develop sufficient ore reserves to make the area attractive for private capital investment. It should be emphasized that, in the following listing, possibly not a majority, or even only a few, may, upon further investigation of the circumstances of ownership, transportation or other limiting factors, reasonably be considered as a proper field for investigation and exploration by an agency of the United States Government.

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Manganese:

Union of South Africa. Black Rock deposit, north of Portmasburg -  
Partially explored and undeveloped.

Brazil. Mavio deposits in territory of Amapa, north of the  
Amazon. Concession granted to Brazilian national.  
Exploration proceeding slowly and unsystematically.

Urucum deposits in Mato Grosso, west Brazil.  
Deposits large but further exploration and development  
needed. Believed to be biggest manganese deposit in  
the western hemisphere.

Afghanistan. Large deposit reported - possibly low grade.  
Exploration needed to determine production possibilities.

French Morocco. Imini and Tioaine deposits. Production potential  
not yet known. Possibly further exploration needed.

U.S.I. Deposits near Jogjakarta (Java) and in west Java.  
Reserves imperfectly known.

Angola. Small deposits which may warrant further exploration.

Turkey. Deposits controlled principally by Mti Bank. Some  
may warrant further exploration.

New Caledonia. Extent of deposits not known. Further exploration  
needed.

Chromite:

Southern Rhodesia. Great Dike area not yet completely explored.  
Private interests now developing on satisfactory scale.

Turkey. Further exploration needed to determine size of reserves.

Sierra Leone. Some deposits known, believed to be part of a  
larger chromite ore province.

Philippine Islands. Extent of reserves and production potential  
as yet undetermined, for various deposits in Zambales  
Province, Oriental Misamis, possibly Dinagat Island  
and elsewhere.

Greece. Production potential may be considerable. Deposits now  
being prospected in part.

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Chromite: (Continued)

India (Mysore). Native ownership of deposits trying to interest American capital. Total reserves not known.

Honduras. Chrome deposits reported near Puerto Cortez. Quantity and quality not known.

Lead and Zinc:

Greenland. Recently discovered lead deposit, high in silver. Danish government owns, and now being examined by Danish geologists.

Tunisia and Algeria. Various zinc-lead deposits, operated at one time. Possibly modern methods of ore treatment needed; and additional exploration might disclose new ore bodies and further reserves.

Spain. Various lead deposits (investment of foreign capital discouraged by present regime). Additional exploration might disclose additional reserves.

French Equatorial Africa. One deposit (Mfouti) which might warrant exploration.

Mexico. Paragula - Magistral. Lead, zinc, silver, needing further exploration before development is warranted.

Copper:

Peru. Cerro Verde and Pterre Bamba. Privately owned, believed to be large, and further exploration needed before large investment is warranted.

Nickel:

N.E.I. (Celebes Island). Large deposits not now being exploited.

Brazil. Tocantins (Goiás) deposits formerly optioned to ASAR. Development dropped because of ore treatment and transportation difficulties.

Santa Cruz (Minas Gerais). Deposits reported, of unknown potentiality.

Nickel: (Continued)

Greece. Small deposits of garnierite ore previously worked.  
Investigation may develop further production potential.

French Morocco. Cobalt-nickel mines at Ben Aszer and Grahaz.

Cobalt:

French Morocco. Reserves and future possibilities of nickel-cobalt ores not now known.

Brazil. Cobalt occurs with nickel at the Tocantins deposit  
(see Nickel, above) and elsewhere.

Venezuela. Nickel ores now being investigated - cobalt content  
or production potential not known.

Cuba. Metallurgical problems are involved in the recovery of  
cobalt from the large nickel-iron lateritic deposits  
of Cuba.

Mica, Quartz Crystal, Beryl, etc.:

In the case of certain strategic materials such as these, by  
the nature of their occurrence it is not possible to develop  
foreknowledge of the total reserves in any area or country.  
Past experience and present productivity are the only gauges  
that can be used. Therefore, the most that might be done, is  
an occasional check-up of the producing areas by a competent  
observer, as to the probable trend of production based on  
a judgment of the factors, such as price, labor supply, etc.,  
that may influence production.

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